



"TO CARE FOR HIM WHO HAS BORNE THE BATTLE, AND FOR HIS WIDOW AND ORPHANS."

ESTABLISHED 1877.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1882.

NEW SERIES.—VOL. I, No. 35.

CUMBERLAND GAP.

"THE GATEWAY TO THE CONFEDERACY" THREE TIMES CAPTURED.

East Tennessee—Its Loyalty to the Union—Occupation by the Confederate Troops—Department of East Tennessee—Organization of the Seventh Division—Capture of Cumberland Gap.

By G. C. KNIFFIN.

The State of Tennessee, divided into three geographical divisions known as East, Middle, and West Tennessee, was one of the last of the Southern States to secede from the Union, and but for the bold and unscrupulous measures resorted to by Governor Harris and his co-conspirators would have held the same position as that of the border States.

In February, 1861, at an election held to determine the question of calling a convention to decide whether the State should remain in the Union, the vote stood as follows:

	Union.	Disunion.
East Tennessee	39,903	5,577
Middle Tennessee	26,809	9,289
West Tennessee	24,091	9,844

Majority for the Union	91,803	24,749
Majority for the Union	67,054	

The bombardment of Fort Sumter and the call for troops to suppress the rebellion produced intense excitement, and aided the Governor vastly in his designs to dragoon the State into rebellion.

He sent the following reply to the requisition of the President for troops:

Non. SIMON CAMERON.

SIR: Your dispatch of the 15th of April, informing me that Tennessee is called upon for two regiments of militia for immediate service, is received.

Tennessee will not furnish a man for the purposes of coercion, but 50,000, if necessary, for the defence of our rights and those of our Southern brothers.

ISHAM G. HARRIS,
Governor of Tennessee.

He then convened the legislature, from which he procured authority to raise and equip 25,000 men for the defence of the State, and before the day of the election, June 8th, he had most of them organized, armed, and distributed in camps. Thus, on the morning of election the people went to the polls, conscious that no matter how they cast their votes secession was a foregone conclusion. A desire to curry favor with their wealthy neighbors naturally induced a vast number of the poorer class of the population, who had not a penny's interest in the interests of slavery, to vote for disunion.

At this election the troops voted, probably, "early and often," as nearly 35,000 more votes were cast than in February. The vote stood:

	Union.	Disunion.
East Tennessee	32,923	14,780
Middle Tennessee	8,198	58,265
West Tennessee	6,117	29,127
In camps		2,741

Majority for disunion	47,238	104,913
Majority for disunion		57,675

It will be observed that the Union vote in East Tennessee had not diminished in the interval between the two elections.

General Felix Zollicoffer, editor of a Nashville newspaper, was made a brigadier general, and assigned to duty in East Tennessee. His administration of affairs there caused an exodus of about 1,500 Union men, who, after incredible suffering, exposed to fatigue and starvation, made their way out of the State and joined the Union Army at Camp Dick Robinson. Here they were formed into two regiments, the First and Second East Tennessee infantry, under command of Colonels R. K. Byrd and J. P. Carter.

A movement which was then under contemplation toward East Tennessee having failed, their hopes of reaching their native State were again raised in January, 1862, when, in a decisive battle at Fishing Creek, General Thomas met and defeated a superior force under General George B. Crittenden, which had crossed the Cumberland River at Mill Spring with the purpose of making a campaign in Kentucky. General Bell, greatly to the disappointment of the East Tennesseans, turned his course southward toward Nashville, leaving General S. P. Carter, in command of a force consisting of the First and Second Tennessee, the Seventh Kentucky, and Thirty-third Indiana Infantry, in observation, on the road leading from Central Kentucky to Cumberland Gap. General Garfield expelled the Confederate force under Humphrey Marshall from Kentucky through Pound Gap into Western Virginia, and, leaving a portion of his force in Eastern Kentucky, joined General Bell at Nashville.

The virtual abandonment of East Tennessee to the Confederates, in the Spring of 1862, had not been accepted without protest either by the Union people of that section or by the administration, and no sooner was the objective point of the second campaign gained by the capture of Corinth than the eyes of both people and Government turned towards the region where a loyal populace were held in subjection by the armed forces of the Confederacy.

Major-General E. Kirby Smith, in command of the department of East Tennessee, was a graduate of West Point Academy, and had served with distinction in the war with Mexico. The breaking out of the rebellion found him Major of the Second U. S. Cavalry, which position he resigned to accept a brigadier-general's commission in the Confederate army.

The total effective strength of the army in East Tennessee on the 10th of June was comprised in two brigades commanded by Colonels Barton and Reynolds; the garrison

at Cumberland Gap, under General Stevenson, and at Chattanooga, under General Ledbetter, and detachments at Knoxville, Kingston, Loudon, and other points on the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, and a cavalry force under Colonel Alston. The entire force at his disposal did not exceed 10,000 men, of whom 4,000 were either totally unarmed or armed with shot guns and squirrel rifles. This insignificant force, scattered over two hundred miles of territory, was menaced on the south by an army of 40,000 men under General Buell, and on the north-west by a force of 8,000 men under General George W. Morgan. How General Smith extricated himself, and by presenting a bold front alternately at either end of his department, ready at any time to evacuate East Tennessee either towards Virginia or Georgia, as occasion might demand, belongs to the domain of history. It reads like a romance, and would be scarcely credible except for the electric light shed upon it by the official reports, telegraphic correspondence, and morning reports of effective strength on file in the Confederate archives. So little expectation had General Smith of being able to hold possession of the country that on the 13th of June he made preparations to evacuate Chattanooga and Cumberland Gap and retire upon Abingdon, Virginia. This movement was disapproved by the Confederate government, as appears from the following telegram:

RICHMOND, VA., June 12, 1862.
Major-General E. Kirby Smith,
Knoxville, Tenn.

Every confidence is placed in you to make the best possible disposition that circumstances will admit. It seems to the prudent that, unless with a view to attack the enemy's rear with your present force, it would be better to adopt the Georgia than the Virginia line. Cannot General Beauregard return to you the troops you gave him? Telegraph him to this effect.

S. COOPER,
Adjutant-General.

In reply to telegrams from both Cooper and Smith, Beauregard replied: "It would be fatal to detach any troops from this army at this moment, when I expect daily to meet much superior forces." Left to his own resources, the department commander had no alternative but to meet difficulties as they might arise, hold his troops well in hand, guard his railroad communications, and, in case of necessity, make the best of his way southward with his army. Furnished with an active and efficient cavalry force, who, from their point of observation in the mountain range that guarded his western front, conveyed swift information of every movement of the Union troops, he sat like a bold chess player at his headquarters at Knoxville moving his men up and down the valley as they were needed. Barton and Reynolds, with their brigades, were in constant motion, now marching through the narrow defiles on Clinch River, making a show of force in Morgan's front, then borne on wings of steam they made their appearance within supporting distance of Chattanooga. They were never required to fire a gun. There was not a moment, from the time that Buell's advance reached Huntsville, Ala., and Morgan gained the eastern slope of the Cumberland Mountains, when the army of the Ohio could not have taken peaceable possession of East Tennessee.

The Seventh division of the Army of the Ohio, commanded by Brigadier-General George W. Morgan, organized in May, 1862, consisted of the following troops:

24th Brigade—Gen. J. G. Spears—1st Tenn., Col. R. K. Byrd; 2d Tenn., Col. J. P. Carter; 7th Ky., Col. T. T. Garrard; 49th Ind., Lt.-Col. Keigwin.

25th Brigade—Col. John De Courcy—16th Ohio, Lieut.-Col. Bailey; 22d Ky., Col. D. W. Lindsey; 42d Ohio, Col. E. A. Sheldon.

27th Brigade—Gen. A. Baird—33d Ind., Col. John Coburn; 19th Ky., Col. W. J. Landrum; 14th Ky., Col. J. C. Cochran.

Artillery.—1st Wis. Battery, Capt. T. J. Foster; 7th Mich. Battery, Capt. C. H. Lamphere; 9th Ohio Battery, Capt. H. S. Wetmore.

Cavalry.—7th Ky. Battalion, Maj. Munday; Ky. Eng. and Mechs., Captain Patterson.

Total effective strength, 7,000 infantry, 300 cavalry, and 22 pieces of artillery.

The recognized gateway into East Tennessee from Kentucky was via Cumberland Gap, in the southwestern corner of the State, whence roads branch eastward through Powell's Valley to Abingdon, Va., westward through the same valley towards Huntsville and Jamestown, passing south of Big Creek Gap, and southward through Tazewell to Knoxville. Seen from either side, the stupendous range of the Cumberland silhouetted against the sky, towers in magnificent grandeur above all intervening hills, presenting no lofty peaks, but a broken line of pine-clad mountains seemingly inaccessible. Cumberland Gap is merely a depression in the range, and no other depression presents itself to the eye. Ranging from the northeast to the southwest, it formed a barrier which, up to the date of Morgan's expedition, was regarded as insurmountable. The gap had been fortified towards the north immediately upon the opening of hostilities, and had since been garrisoned.

After the organization of his command at Cumberland Ford, General Morgan found that his work had begun in earnest. The roads, always bad, were washed into deep gullies, and fatigue parties were at once set to work to repair them. All the supplies for his troops had to be transported by wagons from Lexington, Ky., over one hundred miles distant, and a supply accumulated to subsist men and animals in a forward movement. A reconnaissance in force satisfied Morgan that the gap could not be carried by assault. Pound Gap, ninety miles eastward, over almost impassable roads, was an impracticable route. There were three country roads, or

bridle paths, leading through tortuous ravines over the crest of the mountain, known as Baptist, Rogers and Big Creek Gaps, located respectively four, twenty-three, and thirty-eight miles west from the main Gap. The first was fortified, and the two latter blockaded by fallen trees and huge rocks.

The difficulty of passing his force to the west without attracting the attention of General Stevenson was successfully accomplished by stationing a brigade in front of Baptist Gap, behind which the remaining troops marched to the two last-named points. The diversion was in Morgan's favor by an expedition under Negley against Chattanooga had the effect of withdrawing Barton's and Reynolds's brigades from the vicinity of Big Creek Gap, and enabled Morgan to remove the obstructions un molested. The crossing of the mountain by an army with 22 pieces of artillery, weighing 1,775 pounds each, pulled up the precipitous ascent by hand, may well take rank with the difficult and daring exploits of the war, for Morgan expected to encounter a force on the opposite side of from 18,000 to 20,000 men. Baird and De Courcy crossed at Rogers's Gap, and Spears and Carter at Big Creek Gap, and on the day that the passage was completed the division was concentrated at Mrs. Rogers's farm, in Powell Valley. Here General Morgan allowed one day for rest, then put his column in motion towards Cumberland Gap. The presence of a hostile force east of the mountains created consternation at Knoxville. When Morgan's force disappeared from General Stevenson's front at the Gap, that officer conjectured that it had fallen back and was about passing to the left, and notice was given to the commanding officer at Kingston to look out for it. News of a demonstration against Chattanooga had drawn all the available troops in that direction. General Ledbetter, whose cruelty to the Union people of East Tennessee had made him a conspicuous mark for their vengeance, exaggerated Negley's brigade sent to menace Chattanooga into a formidable army, and, taking counsel of his fears, called loudly for reinforcements.

Then came information of a large force gathering in Sequatchie Valley marching upon Cleveland from McMinnville, and to crown all, and place him beyond all hope of relief, the news of Morgan's appearance in Powell's Valley came on the same day. June 12th was a memorable day in the calendar of General Kirby Smith. Negley having disappeared from the southern end of the valley without accomplishing anything more than to carry terror to the heart of Ledbetter, that officer was ordered to send his stores to Knoxville and prepare to follow with his troops. Stevenson was ordered to fall back towards Abingdon, while the plucky commander, gathering his troops along the line of the railroad, prepared to dispute the passage of a hostile army through his department. At one o'clock a. m. on the morning succeeding the day's rest at Rogers's farm, Morgan moved his command by two parallel roads in the direction of Cumberland Gap. The movement had no sooner begun than General Smith sent Barton, Reynolds, and Alston to Gen. Stevenson, who had reported that he was holding Morgan in check at Wilson's Gap. Smith proceeded in person to Tazewell on the 13th to assume command of the entire force, and from there directed Alston to watch Morgan's movements from Big Creek Gap and the crossings of the Clinch River. Next day came a dispatch from Ledbetter that the enemy was upon him, coming from Stevenson. No resource now remained but to order the evacuation of the Gap and repair with all possible dispatch to the relief of Chattanooga. The following telegram from Smith to Stevenson conveys more intelligently than it can otherwise be described the defenseless condition of East Tennessee:

BEAN'S STATION, TENN., June 15th.
Brigadier-General STEVENSON.
Cumberland Gap.

GENERAL: Mitchell has attacked Chattanooga in force, acting in concert with Morgan by telegraph. The major-general commanding directs me to say that with his small force he finds it impossible to maintain both points, and he is compelled to order the evacuation of the Gap. The road into Georgia is most important. We have large stores at Atlanta, Dalton, Rome, and other points easily reached from Chattanooga. You will take your measures for the evacuation of your post promptly and quietly, sending away your ordnance stores and valuable property. The general hopes you will succeed in removing all your best guns; if any must be abandoned they should be effectually made useless. Camp equipment must be destroyed. Barton will be ordered to cover your movement. Empty wagons have been ordered up and should reach you in two days. Your line of retreat will be upon Morristown, where transportation will be ordered for you at that point. The commanding-general directs me further to say that he can give you no full and definite instructions for your government, but relies upon your good judgment and energy for the successful accomplishment of this movement. Your measures must necessarily be regulated by the operations of the enemy. Colonel Alston has been ordered to report to you. If you ascertain that the enemy are withdrawing from your front with a view of falling back upon Lexington you will of course suspend your movement. If not pushed by the enemy you will, as soon as your command is in hand on the railroad, receive further instructions. Your line of retreat will be towards Cleveland and thence, either to Dalton or Chattanooga, as circumstances may determine.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,
J. F. BELTON, Asst. Adj't-Gen'l.

The next day General Smith writes Stevenson, that if he can evacuate the Gap without Barton's assistance, to direct him to fall back to the south side of Clinch River on the Knoxville road, with a view of shortening the dis-

tance the latter would have to march. Reynolds was ordered to London; Taylor's brigade to Knoxville, as the indications were that Morgan would move directly southward via Clinton on Knoxville. A telegram from Governor Harris at Chattanooga gave information of a heavy column moving from McMinnville with twelve pieces of artillery for Pikeville. The commanding officers at London and Kingston were notified to keep a sharp lookout for this column, as it would effectually cut off succor from Chattanooga. Starnes's cavalry was sent to watch from the mouth of the Hiwassee to Chattanooga, making his headquarters at Cleveland, as the enemy were reported to be building boats on Soddy and Salt Creeks.

While these movements were being executed and General Smith was making arrangements to evacuate East Tennessee, General Morgan was pursuing his march eastward up Powell's Valley toward Cumberland Gap. His road to Knoxville by southward and the distance to each point was about the same. A simultaneous movement threatening Chattanooga by even one division of Buell's army would have compelled the evacuation of all points in the upper end of the valley and placed Morgan in peaceable occupation of East Tennessee. The golden moment was allowed to pass unimproved. The divisions of McCook and Crittenden advancing by easy marches took position at the mouth of Battle Creek on the north side of the Tennessee. Morgan marched into the abandoned works at Cumberland Gap and immediately commenced fortifying towards the east. For this he received the thanks of the President and Secretary of War. A complimentary order conveying the thanks of General Buell was issued at army headquarters, and the newspapers teemed with praises of the heroism displayed by the Seventh division and its brave commander.

General Morgan having gained possession of the "great gateway to the heart of the Confederacy," as Bragg designated it, determined to make it the base of future operations against East Tennessee. An arsenal was built; 4,000 stand of small-arms with which to arm the Union refugees; two additional 20-pound and four 30-pounder guns were brought forward, with a large supply of ammunition for all arms; magazines and storehouses were erected suitable to contain supplies of all kinds for 20,000 men on a six months' campaign. Lieutenant Craighead, a United States engineer, with 800 men set to work to fortify the Gap facing eastward.

The road leading back to his base was repaired and the advancing summer hardened the clay roadbed equal to a turnpike. Everything looked propitious. The loyal men of East Tennessee came out of their hiding-places in the mountain fastnesses and welcomed the starry emblem of their nationality with tears of joy. With two of Buell's divisions within a day's march of Chattanooga and another at Cumberland Gap the Confederate control in East Tennessee seemed to be ended. The sweep of Mitchell's bold brigades eastward and westward from Huntsville, followed by the eastward march of Buell's remaining troops, had seemingly but one possible result. Beauregard, in command of the army in North Mississippi, had declared his inability to reinforce his sorely pressed neighbor, and nothing but the vis inertia that always seemed to settle like a pall upon an army after a temporary success prevented the entire State from being occupied by the Government troops.

[To be continued.]

REUNION OF MARYLAND VETERANS.

The Union Veteran Association of Maryland celebrated the seventeenth anniversary of its organization in Baltimore on Monday evening with a grand banquet at the Carrollton Hotel. The dining-room was decorated with flags and oil paintings of distinguished soldiers. The tables, three in number, were arranged artistically with flowers in different designs. At one end of the room, behind an embankment of greenery, composed of tropical plants, was stationed Wilson Post Band. Gen. Chas. E. Phelps presided, with Gen. J. Warren Keifer, Speaker of the House of Representatives on his right, and Gen. R. B. Ayres on his left. Letters of regret at not being able to be present on the occasion were received and read from Generals Sherman, Hancock, Sheridan, Warren, Hawley, McCormick, Humphreys, Hon. W. W. Dudley, Commissioner of Pensions, and Col. E. H. Webster, Collector of the Port of Baltimore. Among others present were Gen. W. E. W. Ross, Gen. John R. Kenly, Col. Harrison Adreon, Col. Graham Dikehart, Col. Wm. H. Purnell, Gen. Felix Agnus, prominent members of the Grand Army. The first toast, "The Day We Celebrate," meaning the surrender at Appomattox, was responded to by Gen. Keifer, who, in the course of his remarks, said the war had taught the people of the United States as well as the world at large that we can govern ourselves. He claimed that the war had emboldened the soldiers, who had become better citizens than they were before. Speaking of the growth of America in comparison with the rest of the world, he placed this country in the lead, and that its headway would yearly increase. The present generation is superior to any that preceded it; there is less public dishonesty now than formerly. The rest of his speech was devoted to events of the war. He was frequently applauded. The toast to the President of the United States was responded to by Col. Purnell. He eulogized President Arthur, and in referring to Maryland affairs said the people of this State were chiefly noted in the late war for their moderation. "The Private Soldier" was responded to by General Phelps, who showed the important part played by Maryland soldiers in the Union armies, as well in the volunteer force as in the Regular service. The official returns credit the State with 53,316 enlistments. Southern as well as Northern war tunes were played by the band during the evening and heartily cheered.

SOLDIERS' RECORDS.

RELIEF OF VOLUNTEERS FROM THE CHARGES OF DESERTION.

Passage of the General Bill by the House of Representatives—The Relief It Will Afford—Interesting Discussion—The Case of a Soldier Wounded at Gettysburg.

The bill relieving from the charge of desertion all volunteer soldiers in the late war, who completed their term of enlistment but failed to receive an honorable discharge, passed the House of Representatives on Friday last. The discussion of the subject in connection with its passage will be of interest to our soldier readers.

The matter was called up by Mr. Calkins, who said:

I ask unanimous consent to discharge the Committee of the Whole House from the further consideration of the bill (H. R. No. 242) for the relief of Peter Scenden, and that the same be put upon its passage. It is to remove the charge of desertion from the military record of one of the members of my old regiment, and I believe I have never asked unanimous consent in this House but once before. I hope there will be no objection in this case.

Mr. RANDALL. If the gentleman from Indiana will modify his motion and ask to take up, by consent, the bill now pending on the Calendar of a general character covering all of these cases, I think he will do a great kindness, and not only accomplish his present purpose but aid a great many meritorious men who are suffering under like disabilities.

Mr. CALKINS. I will vote for and urge the passage of that bill whenever I can, but I hope there will be no objection to this special case which I have called up.

Mr. RANDALL. But we have a bill pending on the Calendar which reaches all these cases.

Mr. CALKINS. Let me pass this and there will be no objection to the other.

Mr. RANDALL. I do not object to that, but desire again to urge upon the gentleman from Indiana the propriety of asking permission to take up the general bill which will reach his purpose and cover all of these other cases. This bill has been reported unanimously by the Committee on Military Affairs, and there can be no objection, I imagine, to the passage of a general bill instead of all of these individual measures which have the same object in view.

Mr. HAZELTON. Let the bill be read.

The bill was read.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the consideration of the bill which has just been read?

Mr. McCORD. I object for the reason that there are other names which should be embraced in a bill of that character. I shall not object to the consideration of the general bill.

Mr. CALKINS. Then I ask consent to take up the general bill covering all these cases.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the title of the bill to which the gentleman from Indiana now refers.

The Clerk read as follows:

A bill (H. R. No. 5224) to relieve certain soldiers of the late war from the charge of desertion.

The bill was read, as follows:

Be it enacted, etc., That the charge of desertion now standing on the rolls and records in the office of the Adjutant-General of the United States against any soldier who served in the late war in the volunteer service shall be removed in all cases where it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the Secretary of War, from such rolls and records, or from other satisfactory testimony, that any such soldier served faithfully until the expiration of his term of enlistment, or until the 1st day of May, A. D. 1865, but who, by reason of absence from his command at the time the same was mustered out, failed to be mustered out and to receive an honorable discharge.

SEC. 2. That the charge of desertion standing on the rolls and records in the office of the Adjutant-General of the United States against any soldier who served in the late war in the volunteer service shall also be removed in all cases where it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the Secretary of War, from such rolls and records, or from other satisfactory testimony, that such soldier charged with desertion or with absence without leave, after such desertion or absence without leave, voluntarily returned to his command and served in the line of his duty until he was mustered out of the service and received a certificate of honorable discharge.

SEC. 3. That in all cases where the charge of desertion shall be removed under the provisions of this act from the record of any soldier who has not received a certificate of discharge it shall be the duty of the Adjutant-General of the United States to issue to such soldier, or, in case of his death, to his heirs or legal representatives, a certificate of discharge.

SEC. 4. That when the charge of desertion shall be removed under the provisions of this act from the record of any soldier, such soldier, or in case of his death, the heirs or legal representatives of such soldier, shall receive all pay and bounty which may have been withheld on account of such charge of desertion or absence without leave: Provided, however, That this act shall not be construed as to give to any such soldier as may be entitled to the provisions of this act, or, in case of his death, to the heirs or legal representatives of any such soldier, the right to receive pay and bounty for any period of time during which such soldier was absent from his command without leave of absence: And provided further, That no soldier, nor

the heirs or legal representatives of any soldier, who served in the army a period of less than three months, or who received a local bounty and deserted, shall be entitled to the benefit of the provisions of this act.

SEC. 5. That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Mr. KASSON. Is this bill reported with the approval of the Military Committee?

Mr. SPEAKS. It is the unanimous report of the committee.

Mr. KASSON. Then I hope it will be passed.

Mr. SPEAKS. This is a unanimous report from the committee covering a number of bills of that character which were referred to the committee.

Mr. DINGLEY. Allow me to say, Mr. Speaker, that the Committee on Military Affairs have agreed to submit an amendment to that bill when it shall be offered. I do not see the chairman of the committee present this morning, but it is within my knowledge that such an amendment was suggested and agreed to.

Mr. HOLMAN. Will the gentleman indicate what the amendment was?

Mr. ROBINSON, of Massachusetts. Then we will save our objections and find out if this is the unanimous report of the committee.

Mr. RANDALL. This is the Military Committee's bill.

Mr. McMILLIN. Let us hear what the amendment is.

Mr. ROBINSON. Will the gentleman state what amendment the Committee on Military Affairs proposes?

Mr. DINGLEY. It is to the effect that all soldiers who were prevented from completing their term of service by reason of wounds or disability received in line of duty should be included.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman had better submit the amendment in writing.

Mr. ROBINSON. There will be no objection to that amendment.

Mr. SPEAKS. I think the proposition of the gentleman from Maine is in the bill substantially.

Mr. HOLMAN. The amendment is all right. There is no objection to it.

The SPEAKER. The bill is now before the House for consideration. The Clerk will report the amendment of the gentleman from Maine.

The Clerk read as follows:

After the words "sixty-five," in line 14 of the first section of the bill, insert "or who were prevented from completing their term of service by reason of wounds received and diseases contracted in the line of duty."

The bill is before the House for consideration.

Mr. DINGLEY. There are two cases now before the Committee on Military Affairs which suggest a necessity for such an amendment as this. A soldier was wounded in the battle of Gettysburg and was sent to the hospital and hung between life and death for over one year. He was changed from hospital to hospital and finally removed to the hospital at Augusta, Maine. While there, not having fully recovered, but being sufficiently recovered to go home, by an arrangement with the assistant surgeon in charge he was allowed to go among his friends, to report when he was well enough or when he should be called for. By some accident he was marked in the meantime as a deserter. The war closed in April, 1865, finding him at home unable to return to the line of duty; and to-day he comes before Congress and asks to have the charge of desertion removed from his record.

Here is a soldier who was wounded at Gettysburg, hanging between life and death for over one year in the hospital, and by mere accident appearing on the record as having deserted, when the truth was, as the War Department admits in looking over the affidavits, he was all the time unable to perform the duties incumbent upon him. Now, this bill will not meet such a class of cases, and the gentlemen of the Military Committee who were present when the case was submitted agreed it should be amended so as to cover this class of cases, and further agreed the amendment should be offered whenever the bill should come up and that it should be accepted by the committee. All the members of the committee were not present at the time, but all who were present agreed to this; and in consonance with that agreement I have offered this amendment.

Mr. SPEAKS. Mr. Speaker, so far as I can see, this amendment is perfectly satisfactory. There is nothing at all objectionable in it. This bill is the result of the examination by the committee of twenty or perhaps thirty bills for the relief of individual soldiers, and was reported as a general bill covering all cases of this sort. This amendment I think is quite proper.

Mr. RANDALL. The amendment enlarges and does not restrict the operations of the bill. For one, I have no objection.

Mr. ROBINSON. Let the amendment go in by unanimous consent and the bill will not be objected to.

The amendment was adopted.

The bill as amended was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time and passed.

[Doubtless many readers of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE are interested in the bill referred to in the above discussion. It is an act of justice to a class of brave and honorable soldiers who performed faithfully all the duties imposed upon them, many of whom failed to receive their final muster-out through the negligence of their officers. Any soldier interested in the operations of the above bill who will send their names to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE will receive full reports of the progress of the bill through the Senate. It is needless to add that in this, as in any measure in which meritorious soldiers are concerned, THE TRIBUNE will use all its influence in favor of its passage.—EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE.]